

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1919

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CUL, PINT, XX, CU, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL, HAVANA,
JULY 28-AUGUST 5, 1978

REF: STATE 84164

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF SWEDISH YOUTH COUNCIL (SUL), POLCOUNS RAISED QUESTION OF SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNIST-SPONSORED WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN HAVANA IN JULY-AUGUST. ACCORDING TO RECENT MEDIA REPORTS, A LARGE SWEDISH DELEGATION IS BEING PREPARED FOR THE HAVANA MEETING. APPROXIMATELY 120 DELEGATES FROM ALL SWEDISH POLITICAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS SAVE THE MODERATE YOUTH GROUP, AS WELL AS SEVERAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS WILL MAKE UP THE BULK OF THE SWEDISH REPRESENTATION. ADDITIONALLY, NUMBERS OF YOUNG SWEDISH ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS WILL PARTICIPATE AND THE YOUTH DIVISION OF RADIO SWEDEN IS TO SEND A TEAM OF FIVE REPRESENTATIVES.

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2. ACCORDING TO SUL OFFICIAL, THE 1978 FESTIVAL WILL BE THE FIRST ATTENDED BY SWEDISH NON-COMMUNIST YOUTH GROUPS. SINCE THE 1973 FESTIVAL IN EAST BERLIN, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ALL-EUROPEAN YOUTH COOPERATION MOVEMENT (CENYC) HAS BEEN MADE A MEMBER OF THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE AND, ACCORDING TO THE SUL REP, IS ATTEMPTING TO BRING ABOUT A MORE BALANCED PARTICIPATION IN THE

HAVANA MEETING AND MORE OBJECTIVITY INTO ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HE NOTED THAT AT LEAST FOUR OF THE FIVE NORDIC COUNTRIES WILL BE REPRESENTED AT HAVANA (350 DELEGATES FROM FINLAND ALONE) AND THAT SPAIN AND OTHER CENYC MEMBERS WOULD BE THERE AS WELL. POLCOUNS REMINDED SUL REP THAT 11TH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL AS ALL PREVIOUS FESTIVALS WAS BEING ENGINEERED BY MOSCOW, THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (IUS) AND THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH (WFDY). HE SAID SWEDES AND WESTERN EUROPEANS COULD EXPECT TO ENDURE A BARRAGE OF ANTI-WESTERN, MAINLY ANTI-US, PROPAGANDA WHILE IN HAVANA, AND THAT HE HOPED, BUT SERIOUSLY DOUBTED, THAT THE OBJECTIVITY OF THE CENYC-WESTERN EUROPEAN DELGATIONS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN MODERATING THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD BE ADOPTED. THE SUL REP COUNTERED THAT THE DELEGATES OF THE SWEDISH NON-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS WERE NOT GOING TO HAVANA WITH BLINDERS, THAT THEY WERE WELL AWARE OF THE PROPAGANDA OBJECTIVES OF THE FESTIVAL'S SPONSORS AND WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE LANGUAGE OF ANY STATEMENT BEFORE PERMITTING IT TO RECEIVE A SWEDISH ENDORSEMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NOT AND DOES NOT PLAN TO RAISE THE HAVANA FESTIVAL FORMALLY WITH GOS. THE SWEDISH PREPARATION FOR THE 11TH FESTIVAL IS STRICTLY IN THE HANDS OF THE VARIOUS SWEDISH YOUTH GROUPS WHO WOULD NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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BROOK ANY GOS INTERFERENCE OR "GUIDANCE." WHILE WE REGARD IT AS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THOSE OF SWEDEN HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE OFFICIALLY AND HEAVILY IN THIS COMMUNIST SHOW, WE ALSO CONSIDER THAT THE TOP SWEDISH DELEGATES AT LEAST ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE PROPAGANDA OBJECTIVES OF THE FESTIVAL'S COMMUNIST SPONSORS. SIX MEMBERS OF THE SWEDISH YOUTH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL BE JOINING OTHER CENYC MEMBERS IN A MEETING WITH THE US YOUTH COUNCIL IN RESTON, VIRGINIA DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 21, WHERE THE ISSUE OF THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL MAY BE RAISED. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUMMARY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE AVAILABLE ON THE PLANS OF US AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS TO BE REPRESENTED AT HAVANA. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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